IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.

09/118,730

Filed:

July 17, 1998

Inventors:

Ellington M. Beavers et al METHOD OF MAKING FREE ACIDS

Title:

FROM POLYSACCHARIDE SALTS

Examiner:

E. White

Art Unit: File No.: 1623

281-28

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AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 116

FEB 1 7 2000

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Official Action of October 14, 1999. A Petition for Extension of Time, and a check for \$190.00, are attached. Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown:

OK to enter this Amendment

(Twice Amended) A free-acid form of hyaluronic acid [suitable

for placement permanently or temporarily in the body], made by the method

- comprising the steps of:
- dissolving an alkali-metal salt of hyaluronic acid in water to form a solution,
- b) dispersing in said solution an acid capable of producing a pH of 2.2 or lower at concentrations in water at 25° C of 0.01 Normal to 1 Normal,
- enclosing the dispersion formed in step (b) within a semi-permeable membrane having a molecular weight cut-off at least large enough to